

**DETAILED ACTION**

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Andrew J. Lagata on 12/24/2008.

Claims 32, 34, 35 and 36 are cancelled.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 1, 2, 7, 15, 22-24 and 26-30 are allowed.

***Reason for Allowance***

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not teach the following:

In regards to claim 1 the prior art does not teach determining a RECORD-ROUTE header of the SIP request; wherein generating a signature includes generating the signature based upon at least a portion of the RECORD-ROUTE header of the SIP request; and wherein inserting the signature includes inserting the signature into a RECORD-ROUTE header of the SIP node.

In regards to claim 7 the prior art does not teach generating a SIP node header entry, wherein the SIP node header entry is a VIA header; inserting the signature into

the SIP node header entry; receiving a SIP response at the SIP node in reply to the SIP request, the SIP response comprising the VIA header for the SIP node, the VIA header including a first received signature; determining if the next link to the next SIP node is an untrusted link, wherein generating the first signature includes only generating the first signature if the next link is an untrusted link.

In regards to claim 15 the prior art does not teach generating another signature based upon a RECORD-ROUTE header and a CONTACT header of the response header; inserting the other signature into a RECORD-ROUTE header of the SIP node of the response; and before generating the other signature, removing an existing signature from the SIP node header entry.

In regards to claim 26 the prior art does not teach generating a session key; encrypting the session key with the private key; generating, with the public key, a key signature based on the encrypted session key; inserting the key signature into the first header and identifying a time stamp containing data representing a date and time of creation for the session key and appending the time stamp to the session key, wherein encrypting the session key includes encrypting the session key and the time stamp.

The prior art alone or in combination fails to jointly suggest or teach the claimed combination of features as taught by the instant application. Therefore claims 1, 2, 7, 15, 22-24 and 26-30 are to be deemed allowable over prior art.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SALMAN AHMED whose telephone number is (571)272-8307. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edan Orgad can be reached on (571) 272-7884. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. A./

Examiner, Art Unit 2419

/Edan Orgad/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2419